

REMARKS

The Office action of January 2, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1-17 have been amended. Claims 18-19 have been added without the addition of any new matter.

Also, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, the above-identified claims have been amended and should clarify the inventive features including the meanings and inter-functional relationships of claim elements.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. ("Lee") (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,553). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request allowance thereof in the continuation prosecution application for the following reasons.

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

Claims 1-17 are not anticipated by Lee

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under § 102(e) in view of Lee. Applicants strongly contend that Lee fails to disclose the features recited in these claims as amended such as an information history list display section for displaying communication history in connection with answering state of the respective communications

based on history related information which is generated by outgoing or incoming communication and indicates the answering state of the respective communications.

Lee does not disclose this patentably distinct feature of an information history list display section displaying communication history in connection with answering state of the respective communications based on history related information which is generated by outgoing or incoming communication. In strong contrast to the recited feature, Lee solely discloses an email transmission method that displays email communication history based on information generated manually by a user. (see FIGs. 12-13; col. 22, lines 27-28; col. 23, lines 47-52).

Throughout the entire disclosure, Lee solely describes using an email communication method to display sent and received messages including message and status flags generated manually by a user. (see FIGs. 12-13; col. 23, lines 47-52). Specifically, Lee states that "...at step 1210, the user decides to add a specific action item to the message...when the message flag is added at state 1320, the action item entered by the user is stored with the message flag property..." (see FIGs. 12-13; col. 22, lines 27-28; col. 23, lines 25-27). Thus, Lee makes completely no mention of displaying communication history in connection with answering state of the respective communications based on history related information which is generated by outgoing or incoming communication as

recited. Applicants strongly contend that Lee cannot teach or suggest displaying communication history in connection with answering state of the respective communications based on history related information which is generated by outgoing or incoming communication as recited if Lee only discloses displaying email communication history items in connection with information generated manually by a user.

Therefore, Lee does not disclose an information history list display section for displaying communication history in connection with answering state of the respective communications based on history related information which is generated by outgoing or incoming communication and indicates the answering state of the respective communications as recited making the claimed invention patentably distinct and non-obvious from the cited reference.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

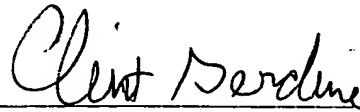
Application No. 09/881,728

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703)
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Respectfully submitted,

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BY



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